

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 19-0137V

UNPUBLISHED

BRITTA SCHWARTZ,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: June 25, 2020

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder  
Injury Related to Vaccine  
Administration (SIRVA)

*Bridget Candace McCullough, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for petitioner.*

*Lisa Ann Watts, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

On January 28, 2019, Britta Schwartz filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a left shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”), a Table Injury, due to an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered on October 5, 2016. Petition at ¶¶ 1-15. Petitioner further alleges that she suffered the sequela of her injury for more than six months. Petition at 3. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On March 20, 2020, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for SIRVA. On June 25, 2020, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$65,000.00 for her past and future pain and suffering. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, Respondent represented

---

<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$65,000.00, in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**  
Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

---

<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

BRITTA SCHWARTZ,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 19-137V

Chief Special Master Corcoran  
ECF

**RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

On January 28, 2019, Britta Schwartz (“petitioner”) filed a petition for vaccine injury compensation alleging that she suffered a left shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”), a Table Injury, due to an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered on October 5, 2016. Respondent filed his Rule 4(c) Report conceding entitlement to compensation on March 20, 2020. The Court issued a Ruling on Entitlement that same day.

**I. Items of Compensation**

Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded a lump sum of \$65,000.00 for her past and future pain and suffering. This represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).<sup>1</sup>

Petitioner agrees.

---

<sup>1</sup> Petitioner’s medical costs were paid by Worker’s Compensation. See Exhibit 7. Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future damages.

## **II. Form of the Award**

The parties recommend that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment of \$65,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner.<sup>2</sup>

Petitioner agrees.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH H. HUNT  
Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D’ALESSIO  
Acting Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

CATHARINE E. REEVES  
Deputy Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

DARRYL R. WISHARD  
Assistant Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

s/Lisa A. Watts  
LISA A. WATTS  
Senior Trial Attorney  
Torts Branch, Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 146  
Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, D.C. 20044-0146  
Tel.: (202) 616-4099

DATED: June 25, 2020

---

<sup>2</sup> Petitioner is a competent adult. Proof of guardianship is not required in this case.